



CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST

JUNE 1979

36

President: Mrs R. Mills
Secretary: Mr G. Sitch
Treasurer: Mr L. Bransgrove
News-sheet: Mr E. Perkins.

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month at the Castlemaine Education Centre, (SEC Building), Mostyn Street, Castlemaine, starting at 8.00 p.m. Visitors and prospective members are invited to attend the Club's sessions.

Orchids of the Castlemaine District

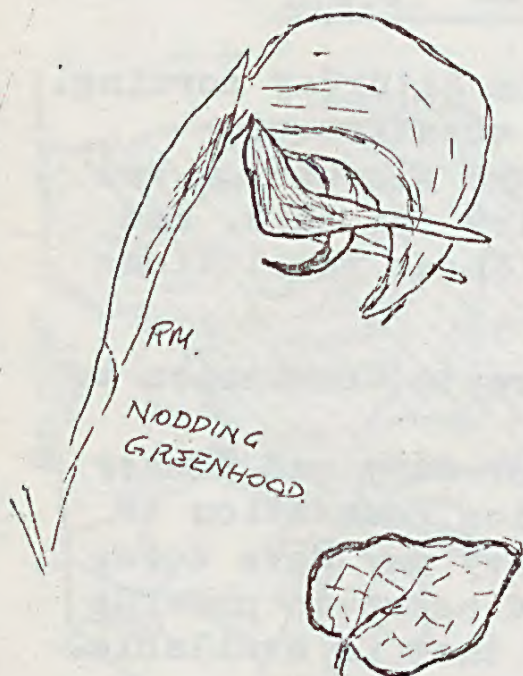
Number 22 of a series by Rita Mills

NODDING GREENHOOD (*Pterostylis nutans*)

Flowering time: July-October.

The noddies are often found in quite large colonies usually in Gully bottoms and sometimes numbering hundreds of plants.

The mid-green hood is about 2.5 cm across and strongly nodding. Often the point is yellowish. The sepals are short and bend up just above the hood. The tongue is long and half-moon shaped, with a darker tip that is sometimes brown or maroon. The stem, which rises from a basal rosette, has several sheathing bracts, and is 15-20 cm high.



.....

A CITY A place where all of the trees are cut down, and then the streets are named after trees.

GRAMPIANS CAMPOUT ... A REPORT OF THE WVFNCA MEETING

The April meeting of the Western Victorian Field Naturalists Club's Association was held at Halls Gap on the weekend of 28/4/79.

Delegates attended from Castlemaine, Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo, Creswick, Mid-Murray, Hamilton, Colac, Portland, Warrnambool, Horsham and Stawell. The activities for the weekend were organised by the Stawell Club.

At an evening on Saturday 28th, a large number of members and friends attended. The Stawell Club gave an illustrated talk. Cliff Beauglehole's Mallee Report was launched by the guest of honour, Dr Jim Willis and slides were shown of a trip, by a group of Field Naturalists, mostly from Bendigo. Last year they went through Arnhem Land, the Kimberleys to Great Victoria Desert, Ayres Rock and the Olgas.

Excursions were made to Delleys Dell, Lake View Lookout, Victor's Range and to the Chimney Pot Gap to see the Aboriginal paintings. All in all this involved a good deal of travelling on mainly rough roads. Although it was very interesting there was not much time left to wander through the bush and make a search of the area.

The delegates meeting was held at 10.30 on Saturday morning. A very long discussion took place on the question of controlled burning of our bush. Most of the discussion was related to the need to find a common policy for this, and finding the best method of burning off. Three resolutions were carried

- (a) That a meeting be sought with the Forests Commission to ascertain their policies.
- (b) That letters be sent to CSIRO, the Forestry and Timber Bureau in Canberra and the Conservation Foundation to ask for the result of any research they may have done.
- (c) That Senator Webster be contacted and asked to provide us with any departmental information that is available.

Renting of Railways Land

It was resolved that we write to VicRail asking why unused lines could not be leased to local organisations for conservation purposes.

Trapping and Destruction of Birds

It was resolved that we write to the minister, Mr Borthwick to ask that we be provided with the number of permits issued each year for the trapping and destruction of birds.

Steel Traps (Other than rabbit traps)

It was resolved that we again remind the Minister that nothing has been achieved in four years and urge the banning of steel traps.

Beauglehole Fund

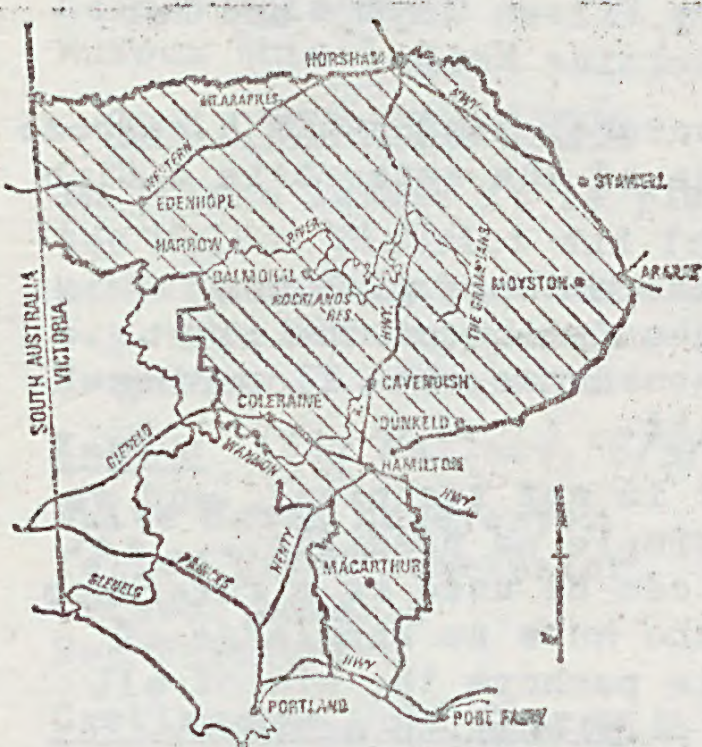
It was decided that the trustees be empowered to contact the minister to get a firm decision in regard to the reimbursement of Cliff Beauglehole for work done in connection with publication of his work.

Conclusion The large attendance at this popular Camp-out indicates that it should be kept in mind that smaller groups and the opportunity to see in some detail the particular areas of bush known to the local club would be rather better than going long distances in large convoys.

(This report was provided by our delegate, Mr F. Meyer)

.....

L.C.C. -- The Grampians Study Area.



The latest report of the Land Conservation Council covers the South Western Area, District 2, as shown on the map. The report is available from the Government Printer, P.O. Box 203, North Melbourne 3051, for \$7.00 including postage.

Submissions about the area close with the L.C.C. (464 St Kilda Road, Melbourne, 3004), on Friday 13 July, 1979.

The district is divided into five study blocks, as follows.

SOUTH WEST WIMMERA PLAINS

This contains 16 scattered, mostly small blocks, including Mt Arapiles. Mt Arapiles is at present reserved as a forest park. The other areas consist of poor sandy soils generally

unsuited for farming, but often with a diverse flora, and often with rarities, or are swamps, lakes or reservoirs.

GRAMPIANS

This comprises 120 000 ha of reserved forest and about 40 000 ha of unoccupied crown land, with smaller areas of public land under other control.

DUNDAS-BLACK RANGE

There is 78 600 ha of public land in this block, of which 45 000 is reserved forest. It joins the eastern boundary of the Grampians and includes the Black Range and Rocklands Reservoir.

MIDLANDS

This is the block between Ararat and the Grampians. It contains Lake Lonsdale, Lake Tyans and a number of small scattered pieces of public land.

EUMERELLA

The main areas are Mt Napier (3 000 ha) and Mt Eccles. The latter includes the Mt Eccles National Park.

.....

Book Review

NATIVE ORCHIDS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA by Eileen Gentry and Pat Foreman, 1979, Printed by the Castlemaine Mail.

The publication of any new book on natural history is a welcome event, and very much more so when one of the authors is a Club member.

For each kind of orchid described, the authors give the meaning of the scientific name, a description of the plant with notes on its distribution and abundance, its flowering time, its habitat and where to find it.

The authors say in the foreword " It is not technical, and we have tried to keep its contents as simple as possible.... yet we wished to prepare something that can be used as a reference but be readily understood by those who have no knowledge of botany or botanical terms." This is perhaps the aim of all authors of popular plant books, but difficult to achieve. In this book the authors have succeeded very well indeed.

The book deals with South Australian orchids, but orchids do not know about political boundaries, and the book is quite suitable for Castlemaine Naturalists, and the book is highly recommended to all who have an interest in our bushland. E.P.

A YAPEEN BIRD LIST

Compiled by R. Renn.

Little Grebe
Pelican
White Faced Heron
White Necked Heron
White Ibis
Straw-necked ibis
Yellow-billed Spoonbill
Black Duck
Large egret
Black swan
Black-shouldered kite
Wedge-tailed eagle
Dusky Moorhen
Eastern Swamphen
Lapwing Spurwing plover
Galah
Sulphur Crested Cockatoo
Crimson Rosella
Eastern Rosella
Sacred Kingfisher
Kookaburra
Welcome Swallow
Flame Robin
Golden Whistler
Rufous Whistler

Restless flycatcher
Willie Wagtail
Supberb Blue Wren
Yellow Thornbill
Red Wattlebird
White-plumed Honeyeater
Yellow Tufted Honeyeater
Striated Pardalote
Silvereye
Goldfinch
House Sparrow
Red-browed Firetail
Common Starling
Magpie Lark
Dusky Woodswallow
White-backed Magpie
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
White-winged Chough
Red-rumped Parrot
Raven

SOME OTHER BIRD LISTS

In future issues it is planned to print bird lists for the Maldon District and for Muckleford Forest. Perhaps members could start with bird lists for some other localities e.g. the Sewerage Ponds, Chewton, Harcourt, the North Harcourt Reservoir, Kaweka etc. Some to date are

Kaweka (Ray Wallace, 6/5/79)

White Naped Honeyeater
Yellow faced Honeyeater
Crimson Rosella
Red Wattlebird

White-backed magpie
Willie-wagtail
Little Thornbill

Castlemaine Golf Course (R. Renn)

Noisy Miner

Grey-crowned Babbler

Vaughan Springs (R. Renn)

Grey Fantail

Guildford (R. Renn)

New Holland Honeyeater

Sewerage Ponds (R. Wallace, 8/2/79)

Black Swan

Dusky Moorhen

Mountain Duck

Black Duck

Tree Martin

White Ibis

Plover

Grey Teal

Little Grass-bird

White-faced Heron

MARYBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB PROGRAM

Excursions

Sat July 14

Tarrengower and Nuggetty R,
with Castlemaine FNC

Aug 5 Teddington Reservoir
with Ballarat FNC

Oct 13 Victorian School of
Forestry, Creswick, Open day.

Meetings

June 4 Nesting Hollows,
Mr Barry Golding

July 2 Mr Arthur Salter,
Native slides

Aug 6 Members night

Sept 3 Mr John Harris, Life
History of 3 insects

Oct 1 Dr L.H. Smith, Lyrebirds.

Nov 5 Dr J.H. Willis, In the
footsteps of Baron Von Mueller

Dec 3 Mr John Clements, Fisheries
and wildlife.

.....

Wing Drying in Cormorants

Cormorants can often be seen with wings outstretched, as though to dry. Observations of the Reed Cormorant in South Africa show that the posture is taken up only after success at catching fish, and is not dependent on the length of time spent in the water.

Thus, the open-winged stance would seem to be a signalling device, to tell other cormorants of a good fishing locality. Unlike human anglers, the open wings do not show the size of the fish caught.

Pelicans in New Zealand

During the dry weather in 1978 there were major influxes of Pelicans to Cities and Papua. Pelicans were also seen and photographed in New Zealand. Apart from one sighting in 1977, this was the first record of Australian Pelicans in New Zealand since the one and only record in 1890.

(from Bird Observer, May
1979)

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club Program

MEETINGS (8.00pm. Ed Centre)

Friday June 8 Sedges, Grasses and Lilies. Speakers are Ross McDonald and John Westerman

Thurs June 28 Committee meeting

Friday July 13 Film night

Thurs July 26 Committee meeting

Frid Aug 10 Switzerland.
Speaker is Mr R. Furlong

Frid Sept 14 Paddys Ranges
Program by Maryborough F.N.C.

.....

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE

Castlemaine City Plan The submission prepared by the sub-committee as tabled at the last meeting has been printed and sent to the town planners. A copy is in the club library.

Excursion to Sailors Gully Those attending reported it to be most interesting and enjoyable. It is hoped that it can be repeated.

Beaglehole fund Club members have given \$50 to the fund. The first result is "Distribution & Conservation of Native Plants in the Victorian Mallee". A copy is now in the Club's library.

Campout A campout is being planned, possibly to Wychitella during October

Library Mrs Gentry has donated a copy of her new book, "Native Orchids of South Australia" to the club library.

EXCURSIONS

Sat June 9 Faraday School Camp
Leave Education Centre at 1.30

Sat July 14 Tarrengower/Nuggetty
This is a joint excursion with the Maryborough F.N.C. Leave the Ed. Centre at 1.30, meet Maryborough at the picnic area at the base of Tarrengower at 1.45.

Sun Aug 12 Serendip
Serendip Wildlife research station
Leave Ed. Centre at 10.00, lunch at You Yangs, Serendip tour begins at 1.30.

Sat or Sun Sept 15/16 Leave Ed centre at 10.00 for Dargile Res.

Mon Sept 24 Maldon-Castlemaine
walk, via the Railway.

.....

Treasurer Expenses (for Speaker) were \$10, credit balance is \$78.26

Meetings The committee aims to keep business at meetings to a minimum; it is better to spend the time on exhibits, reports etc. The committee meetings will be the main business meetings and all members are invited to come to Committee meetings.

Education Centre The Ed. Centre has asked that a representative give a brief talk to one of our meetings about facilities at the Education Centre.

Supper Roster for June
Walker family.

OBSEVATIONS CORNER by G. Broadway

In June, watch out particularly for any of the following

1. Any plants which are presently in flower - especially
 - Dusty Miller
 - Heath
 - Violet
 - Mistletoe
 - Acacias
 - Eucalypts
 - Sundews
 - others
2. The Fly Agaric; the red fungus with white spots.
In how many localities is it found?
3. The Vegetable Caterpillar. A stalk of fungus growing from an underground caterpillar.
4. Birds in the garden, especially
 - White plumed honeyeaters
 - Mistletoe bird
5. Insects
 - A wood-boring grub. Probably found when splitting wood for the fire.
 - A longicorn beetle. The one with a very long unbranched antenna.
 - Gum saw-fly larvae. The ones which form a colony on a eucalypt leaf. Disturb the colony and see if all the larvae are the same size and colour.
6. Snail eggs. May be turned up by the spade in the garden.
7. Frost. When frost forms, do we find more on a piece of wood or a piece of metal?

For the July Meeting.

"We must try to retain as much as possible of what still remains of the unique, rare and beautiful. It is terribly important that we take interest in the future of our remaining wilderness, and in the future of our National Parks. Is there any reason why, given this interest, and given enlightened leadership, the ideal of beauty could not become an accepted goal of national policy?"

Olegas Truhanas